

Online safety update

Musical.ly

To be eligible to sign up for this service, children must be at least 13 years of age.

Musical.ly is a social media platform that allows users to express themselves through singing, dancing, lip synching and comedy in 15 second videos that can be shared with others in the Musical.ly community.



Safety advice

There is information on how to set up a private account and how to block someone in the FAQ section of their site.

<https://musically.zendesk.com/hc/en-us#> =



Safety tools

- **Privacy settings:** For control over who can see your videos, you can apply privacy settings to ensure you are interacting with people you know. If you have a private account, your friends will need to follow you and you will need to approve them in order for them to see your videos.
- **Blocking:** If someone is bothering you on Musical.ly, you can block them.
- **Deleting:** If a fan is bothering you, you can swipe left to delete them.
- **Reporting:** If you see inappropriate content on Musical.ly, you should report it by clicking on the button with three dots and then click 'report abuse'. Should you violate the community guidelines, your account may be removed without warning. If you are a parent and you are concerned with what your child is posting, you can email info@musical.ly



Terms and conditions

Terms of use: <http://musical.ly/term.html>

Privacy policy: <http://musical.ly/privacy.html>

There are also community guidelines which outlines what is ok and not ok to post as part of the Musical.ly community. You are not allowed to:

- Post explicit content or nudity
- Spam comments
- Bully or harass other users
- Post personal information

<http://musicallyapp.tumblr.com/community>

The internet is a great place for communicating, research, and playing games, but it is also important to think about your safety and security while online. Our top tips will help you keep your information private and your devices secure:

1. **Be careful what you share online:** Don't reveal too much personal information while on social networks, as it can make it easier for people to track where you are or to learn more about you. Before posting a picture, think about what information it gives away e.g. a school uniform can give away where you go to school, and details in the background can help someone identify landmarks and locations. Protect your privacy on social networks by **downloading the checklists** from the UK Safer Internet Centre. <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/social-network-checklists>
2. **Keep passwords secure:** Too many people use the same password for many different accounts and they are often very easy to guess. To prevent other people guessing your password make sure your passwords are secure and that you don't share your passwords with anyone else. For strong passwords, combine letters (of lower case and capitals), numbers and symbols, or even use a sentence as your password. Download our **perfect passwords checklist**. <http://www.childnet.com/resources/know-it-all-secondary-toolkits/lower-secondary-toolkit/perfect-passwords>
3. **Install anti-virus protection and firewalls on your devices:** To ensure your device is secure, you should install anti-virus protection on your computer, tablet and phone and keep it regularly updated to ensure they are protected against the latest viruses. Firewalls are also helpful as they create a barrier between your device and the internet. It limits both incoming and outgoing information, and keeps your device safe from intruders. It can't stop you from downloading spyware, but it can alert you if a program is sending information over the internet without your permission.
4. **Don't reply to spam:** If you have an email address, you are more than likely to receive spam/junk email; messages that have been sent to a large number of people to advertise a product or service. If you receive spam it is best to delete it, or to 'report as spam' so that your email provider's spam filters are trained to know what spam/junk emails look like. For more advice, visit Childnet's **Sorted** website.
5. **Have different accounts and don't open links/attachments from unknown sources:** One way to avoid receiving spam is to have different email accounts. You could have one account that you use regularly that you share with friends and family and another email account that you use if you need to sign up for anything online. It is best not to open links or attachments from unknown sources as they may contain viruses or link you to a webpage that automatically downloads code or files that infect your device.

Safety tools on online services update

Would you like to know more about keeping social networking and gaming sites safer for your children? Do you have an internet enabled TV (smart TV) and are wondering about parental controls?

As part of our work as a partner of the UK Safer Internet Centre we have been busy updating the UK Safer Internet Centre website to include more important information for parents about **safety tools and Smart TVs**.

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers/safety-tools-on-online-services>

Smart TVs

With fewer people watching mainstream TV and more people watching boxsets and accessing TV content through the internet, there is now an updated section on **TV on demand and catch-up TV**. This section will highlight the parental controls that can be put in place on TV on demand services, usually through setting up kid's accounts or blocking inappropriate TV content by way of a password. **Smart TVs** are also explained, which are TVs with internet capabilities which allow you to browse the internet, as well as watch YouTube or Netflix from your TV. As most of the TVs that are sold in the shops nowadays are smart TVs, there is also a helpful shopper's list with questions that you can ask in the shop to ensure you know how to make your TV safe for your child.

Safety tools for social networking sites

The updated **safety tools for social networking sites** offers unbiased and practical guidance on how to use the services to the best of their ability. It has 8 new social networking sites added, with links that will explain privacy settings, as well as understanding the functions such as 'blocking' or 'reporting'. It is a good idea to glance through this if your child is eager to try any of these services. It also highlights the age requirement necessary to register for these services.

Top tip for young people

Each week we share an online safety related tip to encourage young people to stay safe online. This week's #toptiptuesday is all about blocking on Musical.ly and can be seen below. For more top tips follow us on **Instagram**.



A parent's guide to Pokémon GO

Pokémon GO has become an unexpected global phenomenon since its release in July. We explain what the game can do, the benefits and risks, and how parents can help their children play the game safely.

What is it?

Pokémon GO is an app-based augmented reality game, based on the popular Nintendo version. The goal is to collect cartoon creatures called Pokémon and it merges the virtual and real world, as you use a virtual map and physically visit different places to find and capture the Pokémon. As well as Pokémon, there are also gyms and Pokéstops placed on the virtual map. A gym is a place where users can battle one another, and Pokéstops are stations that release prizes when you tap them. These are usually attached to landmarks in the real world. With both gyms and the Pokéstops, the user needs to be near them, in the physical world, in order to use them.

Benefits and risks:

The game is highly engaging, entertaining, and fun. It encourages the user to be active, and inquisitive, and can be a great way for parents to use technology in a positive way with their children. However, there are potential risks.

Awareness of environment: To get the most out of the game, the user has to get out and about, using physical exercise. Along with the health benefits of this, there come some risks. The main concern is that players lose awareness of their environment. Being so engrossed in looking at their screens, there have been instances of players walking into objects, traffic, and even into the sea. The game posts a message at the loading screen, reminding players to be aware of their surroundings.

Contact with other players: Due to the nature of the game, its likely players will come into contact with one another when out searching for Pokémon. It is possible to meet strangers in the context of the game as many people who are out and about will be searching for the same Pokémon. There have been **some cases reported** of people being robbed of their phones while out playing Pokémon Go.

In-app purchases: The app is free to use, but in-app purchases can buy extra items. Players can spend real money to buy Pokécoins, the currency of Pokémon, and exchange them for extra add-ons. The risk with this feature is that players may not associate the Pokécoins with real money or may get into the habit of spending money whenever they want a new item, with the costs starting to add up.

Top tips

Reinforce the game's message of staying aware of the surroundings before and during any Pokémon hunting adventures. If children are at an age where they are going out by themselves, it's also important to remind them that the Pokémon app can drain the battery of a mobile very quickly – if they need to call home, or use it to navigate to a friend's house, be sure to make that the priority. Remind your children of the key principles around stranger danger, such as not to give any personal information out to strangers they might meet on the street through playing the game. Before your children go out catching Pokémon, make sure they know to tell you where they are going and what time they will be home. Suggest setting an alarm on their phone to remind them when it's time to start heading home. Explain to your children that whilst catching Pokémon may seem like the most important thing in the world, their safety is even more important. If they get the feeling somewhere is not safe, encourage them to follow their instinct and not the Pokémon. Encourage them not to go to any private or isolated places. Let them know there are always other, safer places to go, and the Pokémon will be back again another day. To limit players spending any money in the game, parents can disable in-app purchases on their own and their children's mobile devices. To access this, go to the settings folder.

Pokémon GO is still a new phenomenon, and the issues around it are still being defined. We are in an age where technology is continually changing at a rapid pace, but the safety messages we have always taught our children stay the same – be wary around strangers, stay aware of your surroundings, and always tell an adult where you are going. Take a moment to play the game yourself, and keep the conversation around it open and honest. Children like it for a reason, and if the adults in their life can help them minimise the risks involved, whilst still enjoying the benefits, they will be better equipped to look after themselves, and all the more likely to ask for help if they need it.

For more information on gaming in general, visit our Hot Topic page:

<http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/gaming>

For more information on Pokémon GO, visit the BIK website:

<https://www.betterinternetforkids.eu/web/portal/practice/awareness/detail?articleId=1067667>

Majority of parents have not discussed sexting with their children

A survey of parents launched today by the NSPCC finds that just 2 in 5 parents have spoken to their child about sexting.

Only 42% parents have discussed sexting with children at least once, while nearly 3 in 5 have not discussed it at all, despite 73% believing it is "always" harmful.

The findings come as the NSPCC revealed that in the last year the number of children counselled by Childline about sexting has increased by 15% to almost 1,400.

As NSPCC chief executive, Peter Wanless, said:

"It's vital that parents talk to their children and that young people feel empowered to say no to sexting requests."

Need for more information

The survey finds that half of parents did not know it was illegal for children to share naked or sexual pictures of themselves.

83% of parents have never received information about sexting and 84% of parents have never looked for it. Despite this, 50% want to learn more about sexting and the most popular ways to do so are through their children's school and online resources.

In light of this research, the NSPCC are calling on parents and carers to **#TalkAboutSexting** and have **provided some advice to help**.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/sexting/>

